



Joanne Lucile Nichols Kovall was born on September 16, 1936, in Crosby, Minnesota, the daughter of Bill and Lucile (Olmschenk) Nichols. She grew up in Crosby and graduated from Crosby-Ironton High School in 1954. On January 5, 1957, Joanne was united in marriage to Frederick Anthony Kovall, and they made their home in Crosby. In 1958, they moved to Owatonna and in 1971, they moved to Willmar. Joanne was an amazing mother. She was a gifted seamstress. She made clothes for her kids and taught her daughters to sew.

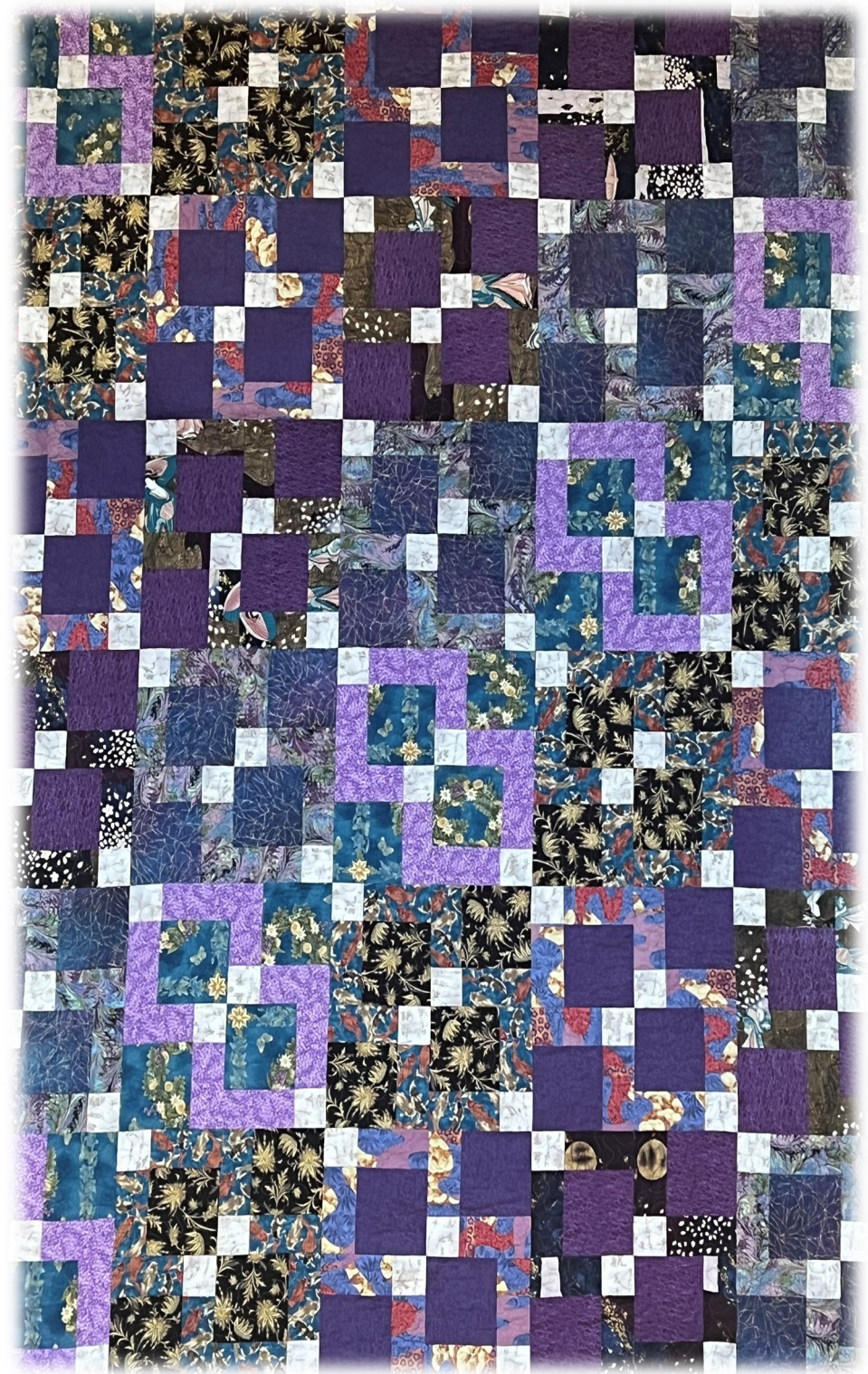
Joanne started working at Willmar Community College, which became Ridgewater, helping at the end and

beginning of the quarters. This job eventually led to full-time employment as the manager of the bookstore. Joanne was a great baker, she made poticia, caramel rolls, chocolate cinnamon rolls and the favorite, Grama rolls.

Joanne was a member of the Church of St Mary. She served as a Eucharistic Minister and member of the Daughters of Isabella. She went to the YMCA for more than twenty years doing water aerobics, even though she was afraid of the water! After retirement, Joanne learned to quilt and made hundreds of quilts for family and loved ones.

She is survived by her five children, Fred (and Jessie) Kovall, Rita (and Jeff) Pattison, Kevin (and Katy) Kovall, Theresa (and Dave) Schlenker and Nichole (and Todd) Rens; twelve grandchildren, Kim (and Kelly) Manseau, Amy Kovall, Billy (and Sarah) Pattison, Michael (and Linze) Pattison, Annie (and Fernando) Pattison-Mier, Tony (and Laura) Kovall, Vera Kovall, Tori Kovall, Will Kovall, Mac Schlenker, Ethan Rens and Linnea Rens; and six great grandchildren, Marshall, Molly, Noah, Olivia, Lucy and Matthew. Also surviving is one sister, Cherie (and Dan) McMahon and one brother-in-law, Daniel (and Sue) Kovall, besides many other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Fred in 2017 and her parents.



MEMORIES OF GRAMA

Ethan: we went to a hibachi restaurant for dinner with Grama after my first communion. The chef started throwing food into our mouths. He tossed it up to Grama and it got stuck right between her glasses and her eye. It was broccoli. It was one of the funniest things I've ever seen. I still vividly remember it.

Linnea: my favorite memory with Grama was when she taught me how to make potica. She said it was the best she made in years!

Mac: I remember going to Grama's old house on Eagle Lake and having Grama rolls and Grama making "Grama pants".

Tori: my fond memory of Grama is when she came to see me perform for my senior recital. It was very special knowing she was there for me.

Kim: Grama was the best pen pal. For many years we wrote handwritten letters and cards back and forth, from wherever we were. We bonded because we both appreciated the sentimental things in life and the nostalgia of old fashioned snail mail!

Amy: my best memory of Grama would be the weekends I spent with her before and after Grandpa died. we would watch a movie, eat good food and have ice cream. Then shopping!

Annie: Grama came over to our house really early one morning to stay with me and get me to school. Mom and Dad left for a steel convention. I was upset that mom and dad were leaving and she sat on the couch and watched Grease with me until it was time to get ready for school. I remember it being special because she was there when I needed some comforting and also it was fun to watch tv before school, since that wasn't allowed.

Linze: for my extra Grama, whom I got to experience the love of a grandmother again. Learning how to make potica, holding her hand during Christmas Eve mass, meeting her first great grand baby, laser tag, belly dancing, all our quilts, Boston, bridal shower, Marshall's birthday party and loving me like I was her own blood.

Billy: Grama was the Christmas Tree Queen. We would cut Christmas trees over Thanksgiving and they would sell them until Christmas. Seeing Grama's smile when she first got to see the Statue of Liberty. The first hug that Olivia gave Grama K after the initial COVID lockdown.

Tony: I am so thankful that Grama came to Russia when we adopted Vera & Tori. She wanted to be among the first to welcome them into our family, and her presence made being in a strange place less strange. The way she embraced the adventure of it was inspiring: she had a fearlessness that came from her kindness and she was the best roommate I ever had!

Michael: When we went to San Francisco we took public transit a couple times, a bus, probably a trolley. I had always been told to not talk to strangers but Grama was very happy to chat and share her life story with anyone who would ask. I guess no one taught Grama that lesson!

Vera: I loved the weekend I spent with Grama and Tori at her townhome. We spent a whole night doing a 500 piece puzzle and completing it! Grama was so tired at the end of it but I know she had a great time.

Will: A fun memory of me and Grama is when we were driving back from camp one year and she let me drive. I was 16 or 17 and Grama was not letting me take any chances, strict speed limit and spacing was required when I was driving. I had learned to drive from dad though, so I couldn't let that fly especially when we got to the city. Once I started driving "normally" Grama was white knuckled in the passenger seat yelling at me to look out for cars here and there. I was actually driving quite mildly for how I normally do. Needless to say after that Grama drove the rest of the way home and commented on my crazy driving to mom and dad.

Sarah: one of my favorite memories with Grama was taking her to Christmas Eve service at Old Mamre.

Fernando: she very happily offered to pay for a bright orange toolbox I had recently bought because it reminded her of the MnDOT orange that grandpa k used to like. She thought the toolbox had been a very expensive purchase. I happily accepted her \$7 dollar payment.

In Loving Memory Of

Joanne Lucile Kovall

September 16, 1936

Crosby, Minnesota

June 4, 2024

Willmar, Minnesota

Mass Of Christian Burial

Saturday, June 8, 2024 - 11:00 a.m.

Church of St. Mary

Willmar, Minnesota

Celebrant

Fr. Steve Verhelst

Music

Pianist: Tim Cayler

Vocalists: Tori Kovall & Katy Kovall

Prelude: *Ave Maria*

Gathering Song: *Here I Am Lord*

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalms 27 – The Lord Is My Light*

Preparation of the Gifts: *Softly and Tenderly*

Communion: *Hail Mary, Gentle Woman*

Post Communion: *On Eagles Wings*

Song of Farewell: *The Hand of God Shall Hold You*

Going Forth: *Let There Be Peace On Earth*

Urnbearers

Billy Pattison Michael Pattison Tony Kovall Will Kovall

Mac Schlenker Ethan Rens Fernando Mier Hicks

Interment

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery

Willmar, Minnesota